AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A directional coupler comprising:

a grounding electrode formed ~~contained~~ on ~~one main~~ a first surface of a substrate;

a line ~~portion contained on the other main~~ formed on a second surface of the substrate and, ~~constituting a microstrip line~~ together with the grounding electrode, forming a microstrip line having a coupling line portion; and

a main line ~~disposed so as to be~~ coupled ~~at high frequencies to a~~ to the coupling line portion ~~being a part of the line portion and be substantially in parallel to the coupling line portion~~,

wherein the grounding electrode includes a notch portion, ~~in which a part of the grounding electrode~~ opposite to the coupling line portion ~~through the substrate is cut in the width direction of the coupling line portion from the edge portion of the substrate so as to include at least the coupling line portion, is contained~~.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the notch portion includes two notches ~~notch portions of the grounding electrode are contained~~ located at opposite ends ~~both end portions in the~~ along a length direction of the coupling line portion.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an electric field strength generated between the coupling line portion and the grounding electrode is lower in the notch portions of the grounding electrode than in a portion of the grounding electrode having no notch portion.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main line is the center conductor of a coaxial line.

5. (New) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main line is substantially parallel to the coupling line portion.

6. (New) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the notch portion is formed in a width direction of the coupling line portion from an edge of the substrate.

7. (New) A directional coupler comprising:

a substrate;

a grounding electrode formed on a first surface of the substrate; and

a coupling line formed on a second surface of the substrate,

wherein the grounding electrode includes a notch opposite to the coupling line.

8. (New) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 7, wherein the notch is formed in a width direction of the coupling line from an edge of the substrate.

9. (New) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 7, wherein the grounding electrode includes two notch at opposite ends along a length direction of the coupling line.

10. (New) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein an electric field strength generated between the coupling line and the grounding electrode is lower in the notch of the grounding electrode than in a portion of the grounding electrode having no notch.